

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 04528 160318Z
ACTION NEA-10

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PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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PASS AID/ASIA/BIS AND USIA

E.O. 11652:. N/A
TAGS: PGOV BG
SUBJECT: CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT SECRETARIES

REF: DACCA 4486

1. THE BDG ANNOUNCED A SERIES OF CHANGES AT THE SECRETARY LEVEL
AUGUST 12. THESE INCLUDE:

A. L.R. KHAN, DIRECTOR GENRAL OF THE INTEGRATED RURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, WAS MADE SECRETARY OF THE FOOD MINISTRY
IN PLACE OF MAMZOR MURSHED WHO WAS MADE OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY,
WITH NO SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES.

B. QAZI AZHAR ALI, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, EXTERNAL RESOURCES
DIVISION, WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING VICE GHULAM MOSTAFA.

C. MOSTAFA HAS BEEN MADE SECRETARY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND
TOURISM.

D. M.K. ANWAR, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BANGLADESH BIMAN HAS
BEEN MADE SECRETARY OF HEALTH REPLACING DR. KHALIQUE.

E. HEDAYET AHMED, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF CIVIL
AVIATION AND TOURISM, WAS NAMED NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
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INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

COMMENT. THE PROMOTION OF L.R. KHAN TO THE FOOD MINISTRY
REPRESENTS A SIZABLE PROMOTION FOR A MAN GENERALLY RECOGNIZED
AS SERIOUS, HARD-WORKING AND HONEST. HIS FRIENDS THINK OF
HIM AS HAVING AN ACADEMIC RATHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE BENT BUT
THE ASSUMPTION IS THAT HE WILL BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN HIS

PREDECESSOR. KHAN, HOWEVER, INDICATED HIS SURPRISE AND LESS THAN TOTAL PLEASURE WITH THE ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE HE FEELS IT IS OUTSIDE HIS FIELDS OF EXPERIENCE. THE TRANSFER OF HEDAYET AHMED TO IRDP SUGGESTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT MAY NOT BE AS GREAT AS RECENT RHETORIC SUGGESTS. AHMED'S RECORD AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BANGLADESH BIMAN AND AS SECRETARY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM HAS NOT BEEN REGARDED AS DISTINGUISHED. THE APPOINTMENT OF QAZI AZHAR ALI AS ADDITIONAL SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING IS NOTABLE CHIEFLY IN THAT IT MOVES GHULAM MOSTAFA OUT OF WHAT HAS BEEN A KEY POSITION IN RECENT GOVERNMENTS. IT IS BELIEVED THAT MOSTAFA HAS BEEN A CLOSE DAILY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT ZIA. GENERALLY MOSTAFA'S SWITCH TO CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM WILL BE REGARDED AS A DEMOTION.

2. SEE REFTEL FOR COMMENTS ON CHANGE IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

3. EMBASSY PLANS AIRGRAM SUMMARIZING AND COMMENTING UPON RECENT CHANGES AT SECRETARY LEVEL.
BERGESEN

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